

The Journal's 2009 Vote Ratings issue listed Costa as a "centrist" who is less likely than most Members of Congress to vote along party lines. This is due to both the unique needs of the Valley, and Costa's independent and balanced approach to legislating.

"I came to Washington to represent the people and traditional values of our Valley, not a political party or special interests," Costa said. "People expect Congress to work together to meet the challenges facing our nation. We can't do this unless we set aside partisan politics and polarizing tactics."

According to this year's study, Costa is more conservative than 46.2% of the House of Representatives, and one of the members at the ideological center of the Senate and the House. For its vote study, the National Journal examined 92 specific- and significant- votes cast, as opposed to other publications which often include procedural and non-controversial votes in their studies.

"Our district has pulled together to fight those who would limit our water and wreck our economy," Costa said. "This is not a partisan issue – it is a matter of survival. Representing the Valley is not about politics, it's about fighting for our way of life."

Copies of the National Journal Vote Study and accompanying article explaining its findings are attached to this release.